

vitiates the central chapters and notes in Appendix A on the dating of the Gospels. That it cannot be so easily accepted as the 'fundamental solution' (v.g. p. 83) is shown for instance in Abbot Christopher Butler's article in the April *Downside Review*, in which he upholds the traditional Catholic view of the priority of Matthew.

Somewhat unpalatable are remarks such as this on the Fourth Gospel (p. 148): 'How is it that no living scholar can confidently claim any part of it, as it stands, to be definitely historical?' The answer would be that John is regarded as a theologian and not as an historian. Under the title of theologian are included St Paul and the author of Hebrews (not St Paul). Yet 'neither their experience nor their theologising has created the history which they are handling, and, consequently, the witness which they bear to it must be taken seriously in any historical reconstruction' (p. 169).

Two chapters (VIII-IX) are devoted to an investigation of the characteristic 'Christologies' of the Synoptists and the theologians, and here again it is insisted that 'all the varied material concentrates upon and has its origin in one single isolated historical event . . . the life and death of Jesus of Nazareth' (p. 170). This teaching is indeed one more sign how far non-Catholic scholarship has moved from the old critical theories that reduced the origins of Christianity to a myth or refused to accept its historical basis through the rejection of the supernatural. Appendix B is a very good bibliography of English work on the New Testament.

The book contains much information not as yet easily accessible in English to the Catholic reader, and in spite of what appears to the Catholic mind to be a dangerous divorce of theology from exegesis, with consequent division of the supernatural from scholarship, represents a very important stage in the progress of biblical research in the Church of England today.

SEBASTIAN BULLOUGH, O.P.

**PRACTICAL GUIDE TO PRINTING AND STATIONERY.** By Hermes. (Fitzroy Publications; 2s. 6d.)

This booklet is indeed practical for the uninstructed layman or stationer who have to deal with the printing world. It gives brief rules of Layout, Blocks, Paper, Types, Proof-correcting, etc. If the basic principle 'the printer is essentially a man of ideas', or 'allow your printer to over-rule you if he sees fit', seems to render the booklet superfluous, it should be remembered that the printer will be greatly assisted by being able to discuss the job with a customer who knows the elements of his language. If the customer cannot describe his needs he may receive something he does not want. This booklet is a first step in a grammar of printing.

C. P.

**THE PROMISE OF THE YEARS.** By Edward Grace. (Sylvan Press; 16s.)

This is an enthusiastic description of holidays spent in the Scottish Highlands, Arran, the Lake District, and the mountains of Donegal. The enthusiasm, which can include storms of sleet on a Scottish mountain, is infectious. There is a vivid story of a poaching lesson

in Donegal, mentioned here as only one of several lively episodes. Vigour and enthusiasm cover occasional lapses into sentimental *cliché*. The photographs are excellent. A few misprints have crept into the book, and there are occasional inaccuracies in geographical detail which might be removed in a later edition; the Ness, for example, does not flow *into* Loch Ness, as the author invariably suggests.

A. R.

Moscow 1979. By E. and C. Von Kuehnelt-Leddihn. (Sheed & Ward; 10s. 6d.)

Around the adventures, mental wanderings and self-reproaches of the secret Archbishop of the Soviet Union, is drawn a picture of one possible outcome of Russian philosophy. It shows the spiritual aridity of a mechanical state where the highest aim of the citizen is to earn the right to live in a perfectly constructed city. The threatened end of the world produces a collapse. Contrasted is the Catholic American empire which finds the strength of its faith sufficient in the face of this catastrophe. Other ideas hover and flit. Unfortunately they are crossed and confused and lost. The book is technically poor. The historical background is devastatingly unreal. The waging of three world wars and the conversion to Catholicism of all America, China and Japan render the next dozen years oppressively overcrowded. Other examples flood the pages. The sketch of England dominated by a caste system is not clever. In fact, clever touches are difficult to find in this novel, which has badly missed its mark.

P. C. HASTINGS.

THE BEGGAR AND OTHER STORIES. By Douglas Newton. (Douglas Organ; 9s. 6d.)

An excellent collection of short stories, skilfully written and full of a deep human sympathy that makes a welcome contrast to the mood of the more sophisticated of Mr Newton's contemporaries. He is not afraid to draw a moral, which is to say that he recognises the moral implications of human action. But this he does naturally, humorously and without strain. *The Beggar* should find a place in every parish library.

#### BOOKS RECEIVED

- Abbaye de Mont César*. Les Questions Liturgiques et Paroissiales, 25fr.  
*Allen & Blair*. Doris Burton: Diary of a Lost Soul, n.p.  
*Allen & Unwin*. S. Radhakrishnan: Religion and Society, 10s. 6d.  
*Berliner & Lanigan*. Willis Dwight Nutting: Reclamation of Independence, \$3.00.  
*Blackfriars*. A. Carré, O.P.: Companions for Eternity, 2s. 6d.  
*Browne & Nolan*. R. Walker, C.S.Sp., M.A.: Macbeth, 2s.; R. Nash, S.J.:  
 Marriage: Before and After, 7s. 6d.  
*Bruce*. Giuseppe Riccio: The Life of Christ, \$7.50.  
*Burns*. Paul Crane, S.J.: Britain's Crisis, 1s.  
*Cape*. Mark Aldanov: For Thee the Best, 8s. 6d.  
*Contact Publications*, ed. Frederick Laws: Made for Millions, 10s.  
*Distributist Association*. C. G. Hope: Man Unchained, 9d.